USSN 08/943,776
1.312 Amendment

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 1, page 1, under the heading "Cross-Reference to Related Application" with the following amended paragraph:

This application ~~is a continuation of~~ claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application serial number ~~USSN~~ 60/044,456, filed October 4, 1996~~.~~, the entire disclosure of which is relied upon and incorporated by reference herein.

Please replace the last paragraph on page 4 (line 30), and first paragraph on page 5 (line 6) with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention provides isolated AIR polypeptides and analogs (or muteins) thereof having an AIR activity (i.e., causing apoptosis of cells expressing an AIR mutein or analog comprising the death domain when triggered appropriately; or for soluble forms, binding to AIR-specific ~~antiboides~~ antibodies or inhibition of apoptosis induced by signalling through AIR). Such proteins are substantially free of contaminating endogenous materials and optionally, without associated native-pattern glycosylation. Derivatives of AIR within the scope of the invention also include various structural forms of the primary protein which retain biological activity. Due to the presence of ionizable amino and carboxyl groups, for example, an AIR protein may be in the form of acidic or basic salts, or may be in neutral form. Individual amino acid residues may also be modified by oxidation or reduction. The primary amino acid structure may be modified by forming covalent or aggregative conjugates with other chemical moieties, such as glycosyl groups, lipids, phosphate, acetyl groups and the like, or by creating amino acid sequence mutants. Covalent derivatives are prepared by linking particular functional groups to amino acid side chains or at the N- or C-termini.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 25 (lines15-23) with the following amended paragraph.

The mouse CD8α^+ DC expressed a counterstructure that bound the human AIR/Fc protein (prepared ~~substaunaially~~ substantially as described in Example 4) at the cell surface, as assessed by flow cytometric analysis. Accordingly, the effect of AIR/Fc on the biological activity of the CD8α^+ DC was assessed. The addition of AIR/Fc to CD8α^+ DC enhanced their allo-stimulatory capacity in a mixed lymphocyte reaction (MLR). Allogeneic T cells ($1x10^5$) were incubated with varying numbers of irradiated

(2000 rad) DC cultured as indicated above in 96-well round bottomed culture plates in 0.2 ml culture medium for four days. The cultures were pulsed with 0.5 mCi [^{3}H]-thymidine for eight hours and the cells harvested onto glass fiber sheets for counting on a gas phase ß counter.